

# FIRST PHYSICAL STROKE AGAINST GERMANY WILL BE EQUIPPING OF 1,000 SHIPS TO BREAK BLOCKADE

Campaign of Colossal Proportions Agreed on by President Wilson and His Advisers to Keep Entente Nations Plentifully Provided With Food, Clothing and Munitions With Which to Continue Fighting

## PRACTICALLY EVERY DETAIL WAS COMPLETED TO-DAY

United States Government Will Build Light Wooden Ships, Each One Armed and Carrying a Crew of 35 Men—First Ship Will be Turned Out in Six Months and After That at Rate of Three Per Day

Washington, D. C., April 12.—A campaign of colossal proportions to break down the German submarine blockade and keep the entente plentifully supplied with food, clothing and munitions has been determined upon by President Wilson and his advisers as the first physical stroke against the enemy. Unable now to send an army into the trenches, President Wilson believes that the United States can do even greater service in the common cause against Germany by providing a great armada of merchantmen to invalidate the undersea campaign, about which have rallied the fading hopes of Prussian conquest.

For weeks officials have been at work on such a plan, but not until to-day was it revealed on how great a scale the task has been projected. Virtually every detail has now been completed, and by fall the campaign itself will be in full swing. Quickly-built light wooden ships of 2,000 tons and upward are to make up a fleet of merchantmen, the first of the vessels to be ready in about six months, and thereafter they will be produced continuously at a rate of three per day until within a year they will number more than 1,000, each to be armed and to carry a crew of 35 men.

The war department prepared to-day to issue instructions to recruiting officers which will be in effect a call for 500,000 volunteers to fill up the ranks of the regular army and the existing units of the National Guard. All the recruits enlisted since the declaration of war and those to be enlisted hereafter will be notified that they will be discharged at the close of the war, putting them in the status of wartime volunteers.

## ALLIED WAR COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN WASHINGTON SOON

Arthur J. Balfour, British Minister of Foreign Affairs, Will Arrive Within Ten Days to Confer with Washington Government.

Washington, D. C., April 12.—Assembly in Washington within a few weeks of a great international war council was foreshadowed by an announcement from the state department yesterday that a British commission, headed by Arthur J. Balfour, minister of foreign affairs, is expected to arrive within ten days to discuss with the government here questions connected with the conduct of the war. In addition to the foreign minister, the commission will include Admiral De Chair of the British navy, general Bridges of the army, and the governor of the Bank of England, attended by a numerous staff.

This was as far as the announcement made by the state department goes, but it was learned authoritatively that a French commission composed of officials and officers equally as distinguished as the British representatives also will be in Washington about the same time. This commission will be headed by C. Viviani, at present minister of justice in the French cabinet, and formerly premier.

It is not known definitely whether any of the other allied powers will send commissioners to Washington, but it is assumed that owing to the difficulties in passage and the probable delay, the interests of these governments will be confided to their resident ambassadors.

Beyond the statement that the object of the commission is to discuss generally questions of policy connected with the war, no information was given at the state department. It was made clear, however, that in no way will the United States government depart from the traditional policy of avoiding anything in the nature of political alliances, though of course that does not exclude full and intimate military and naval co-operation in the prosecution of the war.

While it is by no means certain that there will be a joint meeting of the visiting commissions, if the state department should desire to avoid the appearance of an alliance, there is certain to be concert of action in some way.

The conference is stated to have been sought by the allied leaders themselves in order to discuss every phase of the war. No attempt will be made to go into details or technical considerations, as the general policies involved are too stupendous to permit of it. The allied

## EDDYSTONE WORKERS HAD BEEN WARNED OF THE DANGER

Anonymous Letter Writers Are Said to Have Forecasted the Tragedy with Cost of 122 Lives.

Chester, Pa., April 12.—After an extended investigation, company officials to-day reaffirmed their conviction that the disastrous explosion on Tuesday at the plant of the Eddystone Ammunition corporation was deliberately perpetrated as a part of a campaign of terrorism. This theory, however, is disputed by State Fire Marshal Port, who is conducting an investigation and adheres to the belief that the origin was an accident.

Experts to-day were analyzing the powder in the shrapnel shells at the works with the hope of establishing positively the cause of the explosion which cost 122 lives. There is the theory that if a plot existed, as the officials of the plant maintain, an acid capsule might have been dropped in a shell in the charging room. So far there is no definite evidence that the disaster was the work of alien plotters. The authorities have been told, however, of anonymous warnings said to have been sent to workers at the plant and of other notes and letters reported to have forecasted the tragedy. All are being investigated.

## TWO MEN KILLED IN A MUNITIONS PLANT ACCIDENT

Government Factory in Suburb of Philadelphia the Scene of Explosion—Small Structure Was Blown Up.

Philadelphia, April 12.—The accidental explosion of powder in the detonating department of the government arsenal at Frankford, a suburb, where ammunition is being manufactured in great quantities killed Philip McNally and fatally injured Joseph Miller to-day. The two men were the only occupants of the small structure.

## 17 MAJOR SHIPS SUNK. And Two of Less Than 1500 Tons Were Lost By British.

London, April 12.—During the week ending April 8, 17 British merchant vessels of more than 1,500 tons were sunk. This was officially announced last night.

The statement follows: "Merchant vessels over 100 tons of all nationalities arriving and sailing from United Kingdom ports: Arrivals, 2,406; sailings, 2,367. British merchant ships sunk by mines or submarines over 1,000 tons, 17, including two sunk during the previous fortnight. British merchant vessels under 1,000 tons, two, including one sunk last week. British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked, 14, including four during the previous fortnight. British fishing vessels sunk, six, including one sunk during the previous week."

## BODY TAKEN TO EAST HARDWICK.

Funeral of Miss Mary Blake Was Held To-day in Barre.

The funeral of Miss Mary J. Blake, whose death occurred at the home of W. A. Lane, 57 Spaulding street, Tuesday forenoon after an illness of three months, was held at the house this forenoon at 10 o'clock. Rev. J. W. Barnett, pastor of the Congregational church, officiating. There was a very large gathering of neighbors and other friends and many flowers were contributed. Those who acted as bearers are: Grant A. Lane, A. Lane, W. A. Lane and Earl Lane, the latter being a nephew. This afternoon the body was taken over the M. & W. R. railroad at 12:25 o'clock to East Hardwick, the deceased's former home, where interment is to be made in the family lot in the village cemetery tomorrow morning.

## DEATH AT WATERBURY.

Mrs. Christy Hickory Came There Recently from Montreal.

Waterbury, April 12.—The funeral of Mrs. Christy Hickory, who died Tuesday night after long illness with a cancerous trouble, was held this afternoon at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. E. Gillette, on Kneland flats. Rev. B. T. Parker of the Center officiated, and the burial was at the Center, the bearers being John Parker, George Sawyer, Early Hadley and Clarence Marshall.

Mrs. Hickory was 73 years of age and she came from Montreal a year and a half ago to live with her daughter. When her husband was alive they lived for a time in Fayston. Besides the daughter, she leaves two sons, Edward Hickory of West Warren, Mass., and John Hickory of Lowell, Mass.

## RAILROADS TO CO-OPERATE.

Name Board of Five Men to Direct Operation of Systems.

Washington, April 12.—Heads of the principal railroads in the United States, meeting here yesterday at the call of the council of national defense, named a board of five men to direct the operation of American railways throughout the war.

It was announced that the purpose of the board will be to give the government the best possible service not only in transporting troops and military supplies, but in handling every necessary commodity.

Members of the board are Fairfax Harrison of the Southern, chairman; Howard Elliott of the New Haven, Samuel B. Elwell of the Pennsylvania, Hale Holden of the Burlington, and Julius Kruttschnitt of the Southern Pacific.

## FIELD OF BLOOD WHEN GERMANS FAILED AT VIMY

Attacks on British Positions Broken Up with Heavy Losses to the Attackers, While British Captured Two Important Points to North of Ridge, Despite the Stormy Weather

## FRENCH MAKE GAINS BELOW ST. QUENTIN

Germans Driven to South-Western Edge of Upper Courcy Forest and Forced to Relinquish Several Important Positions—Germans Also Defeated in Champagne Region

London, April 12.—The British captured early this morning two important positions in the enemy's line north of Vimy ridge and are now astride the river Souchez, according to the official statement issued by the war office to-day. A number of prisoners were taken. Two German counter-attacks on Vimy ridge last night were broken up with heavy losses to the attackers. The statement says the weather continues stormy.

About 1,000 yards of trenches south of Farbus wood in the region southeast of Vimy were captured by the British this morning. Reuter's correspondent telegraphs from the front. A hill southeast of Wancourt also was captured. The British yesterday took 11 additional guns in the fighting between Croisilles and the Scarpe river.

## REPORT BULGARIA IS READY TO QUIT AND ACCEPT PEACE

Bulgarians Are Said to Be in Switzerland Trying to Arrange Separate Peace with Entente Nations.

London, April 12.—Reports from Swiss sources have been received in Rome that the Bulgarian minister at Bern has made overtures to the entente ministers with a view to a conclusion of a separate peace, the Exchange Telegraph's Rome correspondent.

Similar advice regarding Bulgaria are sent by the Exchange Telegraph's representative at Lausanne. He reports that the Gazette of that city states it has learned that semi-official Bulgarian delegates are in Switzerland endeavoring to arrive at a basis for a separate peace with the representatives of the entente.

## VERMONT WAR FUND IS OVER-SUBSCRIBED

State Treasurer Scott Announces Names of Additional Banks Applying for Part of Loan.

State Treasurer Scott announced to-day that Vermont's \$1,000,000 emergency war fund had been over-subscribed. The following additional banks have applied for a part of the loan: Allen National bank of Fair Haven, Barton Savings bank, Richmond Savings bank, Jamaica Savings bank, Swanton Savings bank, Barre Savings bank, Central Savings bank of Orleans, Interstate Trust Co. of White River Junction, Citizens' Savings bank of St. Johnsbury, Winoski Savings bank, Passumpsic Savings bank of St. Johnsbury, Union Savings bank of Morrisville, Vergennes National bank, Champlain Trust Co. of Winoski, Woodstock Savings bank and Wilmington Savings bank.

## PLEDGE CO-OPERATION.

Vermont District Superintendents Will Aid More Food Campaign.

The following resolutions were adopted yesterday by the Vermont Association of District Superintendents at Montpelier:

Inasmuch as the state board of education and Dr. Hillegas have appealed to the schools for assistance at this time of the nation's peril in producing and conserving the necessities of life, be it, therefore,

Resolved, That we, the district superintendents of Vermont, in conference assembled at Montpelier, this, the 11th day of April, 1917, do express to the state board, to our commissioner and to our committee of safety, deep appreciation of the confidence they have expressed in the ability of the schools to minister to the nation in its time of need and that we pledge to them and to the state our cheerful acceptance of this patriotic duty and our hearty and thoughtful co-operation in executing any of the plans which they may suggest to further the interests of the nation and to shield the people from the hardships and desolation of war.

## The "Company Fund" Subscriptions.

The "company fund" of the Headquarters committee has received more additions, the new names being given below: Previously acknowledged..... \$1,471.00  
Leslie Lawrence..... 2.00  
John W. Gordon..... 10.00  
H. J. Smith & Co..... 5.00  
Earl L. Ward..... 1.00  
Robert C. Walker..... 1.00  
George C. Walker..... 1.00  
B. F. Davis..... 5.00  
Total..... \$1,500.00

## LICENSE COMMISSIONERS FOR VERMONT

Gov. Graham Makes Appointments by Virtue of Authority Recently Conferred on Him.

Gov. Graham has appointed the following license commissioners in Vermont, acting under authority conferred on him by recent act of the legislature:

Addison county—William Noonan, Panton; John A. Harrington, Vergennes; Fred E. Platt, Shoreham.  
Bennington county—John H. Dimond, Manchester; William D. Howe, Readsboro; Edwin D. Moore, Bennington.  
Caledonia county—M. D. Packer, Newark; W. L. Hitchcock, Kirby; Herman F. Simpson, Sheffield.  
Chittenden county—Albert B. Buell, Burlington; E. T. Langlois, Colchester; Frank W. Elliott, Burlington.  
Essex county—C. H. Green, Canaan; Henry Stevens, Bloomfield; John L. Mills, Brimfield.  
Franklin county—N. E. Leuyer, St. Albans; J. J. Finn, St. Albans; A. G. Webster, Swanton.  
Grand Isle county—Nathan K. Martin, Alburgh; John Tudhope, North Hero; Charles R. Russell, Grand Isle.  
Lamoille county—Harry C. Parker, Johnson; Elmer A. Smalley, Morristown; Charles L. Bellows, Cambridge.  
Orange county—Warren W. Bailey, Newbury; John M. Comstock, Chelsea; George Sanford, Randolph.  
Orleans county—Fred B. Hammond, Troy; E. R. Hitchcock, Westfield; Bernard H. Coburn, Jay.  
Rutland county—Charles H. Harrison, Rutland; Carroll B. Ross, West Rutland; R. Temple Jones, Fair Haven.  
Washington county—Elmer B. House, Berlin; B. Lucchini, Barre; William Ward, Barre.  
Windham county—Eli H. Porter, Wilmington; Fred Johnson, Somerset; Edwin L. Wheeler, Whitingham.  
Windsor county—Fred J. Davis, Chester; Walter S. Austin, Reading; John H. Hicks, Weatherfield.

## VALUABLE BUILDINGS BURNED.

Websterville Blaze Was Plainly Seen in Barre Last Night.

One of the best sets of farm buildings in Barre town was swept away last night when fire of unknown origin destroyed the house and two barns on the Eastman farm, so called, in Websterville, which is owned by the Wells-Lamson Quarry Co., whose plant is directly across the road from the burned buildings. The farm house, an attractive building of the old-fashioned type, was erected more than three-quarters of a century ago. One of the barns was built only two years ago. Supt. John G. McLeod of the Wells-Lamson company stated this morning that the buildings cannot be replaced for \$10,000. The loss is only partially covered by insurance carried in the agencies of J. W. Dillon, G. H. Pope and the Granite Mutual Fire Insurance Co. of this city. It is probable that one of the barns, at least, will be rebuilt.

The house was occupied by the family of J. W. McLeod. The latter is a brother of Supt. J. G. McLeod and is in Springfield, Mass. Members of the family discovered the fire in one of the barns soon after 9 o'clock. After notifying the neighbors by telephone, they bent their efforts to removing household goods and before the house took fire it had been emptied of its furnishings. One of the quarry whistles amplified the telephone alarm and in a few minutes many people had gathered. They found both barns alight and with the wind blowing strongly it was seen that nothing could save the house. Buckets were not available and as there were no other means of combating the flames, the buildings burned quickly. Supt. McLeod was notified at his home here in Barre and he hurried to Websterville.

At one time it was feared that the fire would communicate to buildings on the Lewis Keith place on the East Barre road, and there the house and barns were closely watched. A quantity of hay, owned by George Hutchins of East Barre, which was stored in one of the Eastman barns, was destroyed along with the farm implements. Mr. Hutchins had carried on the farm for several years. Here in the city the reflection of the fire was plainly visible, the flames seeming to reach their height at 9:30 o'clock.

## WAS BORN IN SPAIN.

Mrs. Julia Villanueva Died in Barre After Several Months' Illness.

Mrs. Julia Villanueva, wife of Raymond Villanueva, passed away at her home, 313 North Main street, Wednesday afternoon at 5 o'clock. Mrs. Villanueva had been in declining health since Christmas and latterly her condition had been critical for several weeks. Besides her husband she leaves a son, Germinal Villanueva, who is 11 months old, and three brothers, who reside in Spain. The deceased was born Julia Jil in Spain 38 years ago. She came to America from Spain in the fall of 1914 and was married in Barre upon her arrival here. In the Spanish colony of this city she was held in high esteem and her early death has brought sorrow to many friends.

Funeral services will be held at the house Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock and interment will be made in Hope cemetery.

## HAD BEEN ILL A MONTH.

Francesco Canevari, Native of Italy, Died in Barre.

Francesco Canevari passed away at the home of his daughter, 108 Railroad street, this morning at 6:30 o'clock, the end following an illness of a month. The deceased was born in Lodi, Italy, 71 years ago and had resided in Barre for the past 17 years. His wife died in Italy in 1888 and two years afterward Mr. Canevari came to America to live with his daughter, Mrs. Alexander Garetto. He is survived by his daughter, and his son-in-law, Mr. Garetto. In Italy he was long engaged as a traveling merchant, abandoning the business only when he decided to transfer his residence to this country. He was a member of the Italian Old Men's society here in Barre.

The funeral will be held at the Garetto home Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment will be made in Hope cemetery.

## LAW-MAKERS GO HOME WITHOUT CHANGING COURT

Vermont Legislature Adjourned, Sine Die, at Noon To-day After Attempt to Consolidate Courts Had Failed—Speaker Wilson of House Chosen a Superior Judge

## REP. DANA OF NEW HAVEN CHOSEN TO HIS PLACE

All the Other Superior Judges Were Re-elected—Direct State Tax of 20 Cents Was Finally Agreed On—Many Details Were Rushed Along at the End

The Vermont legislature of 1917, which has been sitting at Montpelier 100 days, adjourned, sine die, at noon to-day, following another attempt to remodel the county court bill somewhat along the lines of the judiciary bill, which died in the conference committee at 1 o'clock this morning. One of the closing acts of the legislature was the election of six superior judges, all of the present judges being returned and, in addition, Attorney Stanley C. Wilson of Chelsea being elected as sixth associate justice to fill the vacancy caused by the promotion of Judge W. W. Miles to the supreme bench and the advancing of the other superior judges.

When the Senate reconvened this forenoon after the failure of the conference on the administration's court consolidation bill, an old bill, S. 34, which had been on the calendar a long time, having been ordered to lie pending the outcome of the larger bill, was called up. This bill related to county courts. Senator Vilas moved the addition of seven amendments to the county court bill, which had been taken bodily from the bill which died early this morning. The Senate then accepted the amended bill by a vote of 18 to 8. The bill then went to the House, where after being talked over for a time it was unanimously killed.

The larger bill died in the conference committee where the conferees failed to agree, the Senate wanting six superior judges and the House five.

At 10 o'clock this forenoon a joint session was called for the election of superior judges, the efforts to get together having failed. Eleazer L. Waterman of Brattleboro, nominated by Representative Chidworth of Londonderry, was elected chief justice; Zel S. Stanton of Roxbury, nominated by Senator Steele of Washington county, was chosen second judge; F. M. Butler of Rutland, nominated by Senator Chalmers of Rutland county, was elected third; P. L. Fish of Vergennes, nominated by Representative LaFleur of Middlebury, was elected fourth; L. P. Slack of St. Johnsbury, nominated by Senator Ricker of Caledonia county, was elected fifth; and S. C. Wilson of Chelsea, nominated by Representative Metzger of Randolph, was elected sixth judge.

The election of Mr. Wilson was accompanied by a marked demonstration. His name had been seconded by a dozen men and the announcement of his election was cheered to the echo. Mr. Wilson had previously retired from the room and he was compelled to return and take the oath.

He thanked the legislators and said he would do his best.

When Mr. Wilson resigned as speaker of the House in order to be a candidate for superior judge, there was a contest for the position. Representatives W. W. Reid of Barton and Charles S. Dana of New Haven being the candidates. Both are Republicans. When the vote was counted it was found that Mr. Dana was elected speaker. Mr. Dana was elected at 11:15 o'clock.

The Senate tried yesterday to re-pass a direct state tax. The House passed a bill calling for a 20-cent tax, and the Senate tried to amend by making it 25 cents. The Senate proposal was taken before a committee of conference. The House refused to re-consider its position and the Senate finally accepted the 20-cent tax.

## Speaker Wilson Given Token.

The House last evening presented Speaker Wilson a handsome gold watch and chain suitably inscribed and a purse of greenbacks to purchase a watch chain. The presentation was made by Representative Dana of New Haven and Mr. Wilson responded most fittingly. The House formed its permanent organization as follows: Chairman, Stanley C. Wilson; secretary, Benjamin Williams of Proctor, and an executive committee consisting of a representative from each county. The Chittenden county representative is A. L. Fogg of Underhill.

The budget bill was passed with certain amendments by both branches last evening.

The Senate killed the bill providing for compulsory arbitration by the public service commission in cases of controversy between laborers and their employers. The remaining business transacted was merely routine.

Appointments.

Joseph G. Brown of Montpelier was appointed insurance commissioner, William L. Davis of Rutland the fifth member of the board of control, Elbert S. Brigham of St. Albans reappointed as commissioner of agriculture and Dr. W. M. Bryant of Ludlow reappointed to the board of supervisors of the insane by the governor yesterday afternoon. The Senate confirmed all of the appointments without any debate.

Mr. Brown is a former chairman of the Republican state committee and a former member of the Vermont legislature.

## Died in California.

Newport, April 12.—C. L. M. Bugbee, one of Newport's leading business men, died Wednesday morning in Pasadena, Cal., after a brief illness. Mr. Bugbee has conducted a successful jewelry business for nearly 20 years. Mr. and Mrs. Bugbee went to California in January to spend the remainder of the winter.